

by having you in our family, and we are looking forward to the great future God has planned for you.

I am so glad that we will be able to see each other this weekend and celebrate, when many other fathers and mothers abroad have to wait months to celebrate with their own kids.

Birthdays and holidays give us another chance to pause and remember them this year. Thank you, veterans.

And happy birthday, Kaden.

BLACKOUT RULES ARE UNFAIR

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, earlier this month, the Federal Communications Commission chair put forth a proposal to end government support for sports blackouts. This is a welcome step in the fight to end blackouts once and for all.

In my home community of western New York, there is a threat of a blackout for the next two home games. This means that, despite overwhelming community support, money spent on merchandise, and tax dollars being spent for stadium improvements, Buffalo fans will not be able to see their NFL team on television.

On Tuesday I introduced the Furthering Access and Networks for Sports, or FANS, Act, which would eliminate these harmful blackouts once and for all. Senators BLUMENTHAL and MCCAIN introduced identical legislation in the Senate.

Madam Speaker, blackout rules are unfair, outdated, and alienate fans. I will continue to fight until sports teams do the right thing for their fans.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S BROKEN PROMISE

(Mr. GOSAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to shed light on the President's broken health care promise. The President promised over and over again that Americans who like their health care plans could keep them, but that is just not true.

Here is what Wendy from my district wrote me:

My BlueCross BlueShield policy will be canceled due to ObamaCare starting March 1, 2014. I checked out other policy options under ObamaCare and the least expensive qualifying plan was an additional \$208.44 per month. This is with a higher deductible, larger out-of-pocket expense, and only three doctor visits per year per person. This is outrageous. Additionally, this rate only includes me and my three children, not even my husband. I guess we can't even keep a family together under ObamaCare.

As Wendy's story exemplifies, and as we predicted since 2010, ObamaCare is fundamentally flawed in concept and execution. Dictated government health care cannot beat free-market choices.

And as a health care professional, I will continue to do all that I can to protect the American people from ObamaCare.

VETERANS TOUR

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the recent veterans tour I conducted across my region of Illinois.

Last week I traveled to all corners of my district to meet with local veterans and listen to their priorities and to their concerns. I held listening roundtables with veterans to talk about ways we can cut down on the shameful backlog of VA claims, to make sure that veterans have access to good-paying jobs, to education, and to job training programs, and to put an end to veterans' homelessness.

I also worked a shift at the Sterling, Illinois, VA Clinic, where I shadowed nurses and saw firsthand new technology that help veterans have access to treatment closer to home.

And, finally, I interviewed Leland Chandler for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. Mr. Chandler is a World War II veteran from Galesburg, Illinois, who was a prisoner of war in the Pacific Theater. He received many awards and decorations for his brave service to our Nation. He is a true American hero, and I am honored to share his story with the public.

During my time in Congress, I have made veterans my top priority, and I will continue to fight to protect the benefits that they have worked so hard to achieve.

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AMERICANS LOSING THEIR HEALTH INSURANCE

(Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, today I want to talk about Debbie Brown, who is from Garfield County in Washington State. She has a daughter and two grandchildren and is 53 years old. She works at the local gas station to help support her family. A few weeks ago, she was one of many who were told that, as of December 31, 2013, her health insurance plan would no longer be available. She has looked at other plans and hasn't found one that is affordable, so she is uninsured now.

Unfortunately, her story is too common; and it is repeated all across this country, heartbreaking stories of everyday, average, hardworking Americans losing their health insurance. We can do better. Too many Americans are receiving cancellation notices; too many Americans are losing their doctors; and too many Americans don't have affordable health insurance because of the Affordable Care Act.

Madam Speaker, 3.5 million Americans have seen their plans canceled, almost 300,000 in Washington State alone. President Obama promised the American people, if you liked your health care plan, you could keep it—not, if he liked your plan, you could keep it.

Let's support the legislation tomorrow.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY EMPLOYMENT PROTECTIONS

(Mr. KILMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to call on the House to pass the Employment Nondiscrimination Act, which passed the Senate with bipartisan support. It is a bill with a simple premise: that people should be hired, fired, and assessed based on their capabilities and job performance, not on prejudice. It would take the common-sense step of extending Federal employment nondiscrimination protections to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

I spent a decade working in economic development, and the research by Richard Florida and others is pretty clear. One of the prime drivers of economic growth is tolerance, and yet, in 29 States, it is legal to fire an employee because of sexual orientation. The rights granted in my State shouldn't end at our borders.

Failure to act on this doesn't make economic sense; it doesn't make legislative sense; and it doesn't make moral sense.

But I am not here just as an economic developer. I am here as someone whose faith dictates that I love and respect all people and live by the Golden Rule, and I am here as a dad of two little girls. I want my daughters to grow up in a country where discrimination is a thing of the past, where folks can't be treated differently because of their gender or who they love. It is time to pass ENDA.

NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRAN

(Mr. HOLDING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, President Rouhani of Iran is doing exactly what he was put in power to do: get the Obama administration to weaken international economic sanctions.

Our sanctions, Madam Speaker, are working. Unfortunately, Secretary Kerry and this administration have been chasing an agreement with Iran that relaxes sanctions and allows Iran to continue enriching material and developing their heavy-water reactor. This is an outcome that the regime in Tehran desires, and they won't have to make any concessions to get it.